

SOUTH WATUPPA POND (Fall River / Westport)

General Information:

This 1,446-acre warm water pond has an average depth of 15 feet and a maximum depth of 22 feet. Transparency is low at three feet and aquatic vegetation is scant. The bottom is composed of rubble, rock and muck, and there are numerous rubble-strewn shoals. Roughly a third of the 10 miles of shoreline is wooded and easily accessible to anglers on foot.

Access is a paved boat ramp and parking area located off Route 24 at the northeast corner of the pond just south of Route 195. Parking space is available for approximately 50 vehicles.

Fish Populations:

The pond was last surveyed in 1979 when 10 species were found. Smallmouth and largemouth bass compose the game species, while white perch, yellow perch, golden shiner, pumpkinseed, brown bullhead, bluegill, goldfish and black crappie compose the panfish and baitfish. Northern pike and tiger muskies are also present today.

Fishing:

The large size, abundant structure and moderate fertility of this pond make it excellent smallmouth bass habitat. Smallmouth fishing is good, both in numbers and size. Largemouth bass fishing is also good, with some fish in our sample topping out around 20 inches. Yellow perch are under-harvested and average about seven and a half inches long. The chief forage base for bass is golden shiners.

Most of the pond's productivity is tied up in white perch, but tiger muskies were stocked here in 1985, northern pike in 1989 and 1990. These fish should reach harvestable size (28 inches) in roughly five years (some of the tigers are presumed to be over 10 pounds already), and besides providing additional sport for anglers, it is hoped they will have a reduction effect on the white perch.

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